

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 IO-03 DPW-01

AID-10 SR-02 ORM-01 RSR-01 /080 W

----- 099282

R 161259Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4661

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12803

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR 1

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL DANANG DATED 16 JULY
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 0901

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, JULY XQYN 1973

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED LIGHT AND SCATTERED MAINLY IN THE THREE
SOUTHERN PROVINCES. THERE WERE NO VIOLATIONS REPORTED NORTH OF
THE HAI VAN PASS. FOLLOWING ARE THE STATISTICS FOR THE THREE-
DAY REPORTING PERIOD BROKEN OUT ACCORDING TO THE DAY THEY WERE
BRIEFED AT I CORPS HEADQUARTERS.

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JULY 14: THREE CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, MADE UP OF ONE GROUND ATTACK, ONE ATTACK BY FIRE (ABF), AND ONE HARASSMENT. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 4 KIA, 12 WIA; ENEMY NO KIA (FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE CEASEFIRE), 6 RETURNEES.

JULY 15: SEVEN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, MADE UP OF SIX ABF AND ONE HARASSMENT. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 5 KIA, 26 WIA; ENEMY 17 KIA, ONE CAPTURED.

JULY 16: SEVEN VIOLATIONS WERE AGAIN REPORTED, MADE UP OF ONE GROUND ATTACK, 4 ABF AND TWO HARASSMENTS. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 5 KIA, 8 WIA; ENEMY 12 KIA.

2. GVN MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

POLOFF QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT ACCORDING TO NGHIA HANH DISTRICT CHIEF MAJOR HOANG TRONG DO, THE SITUATION IN THE UPPER SONG VE VALLEY, THE SCENE OF HEAVY FIGHTING DURING MAY AND JUNE, HAS STABILIZED AND PROVINCIAL ROUTE 516/517 TO MINH LONG DISTRICT TOWN IS NOW OPEN TO BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY TRAFFIC. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT FIGHTING IN THE AREA FOR MORE THAN THREE WEEKS AND BOTH SIDES ARE ENGAGING INSTEAD IN INTENSIVE LOUDSPEAKER PROPAGANDA DUELS. RANGER AND RF TROOPS HAVE RE-OCCUPIED THE HIGH GROUND IMMEDIATELY TO THE SOUTH OF THE ROAD, AND ENEMY TROOPS HAVE PULLED BACK ABOUT ONE KILOMETER TO THE SOUTH. A CONVOY OF THREE MILITARY TRUCKS TRANSPORTED RICE TO MINH LONG ON JULY 12 WITHOUT INCIDENT. DO HAS ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS THAT ALL COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC MUST USE ROUTE 516/517 INSTEAD OF AN ALTERNATE TRAIL TO THE WEST IN ORDER TO PREVENT MERCHANTS FROM TRADING WITH THE VC. DO SAID THAT THE 61ST RANGER BATTALION NO LONGER OCCUPIES THE EAST BANK OF THE SONG VE, WHICH IN EFFECT GIVES THE ENEMY FREE USE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPPLY ROUTES THROUGH THE VALLEY AND INTO THE LOWLANDS. POLOFF COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE REACHED AN ACCEPTABLE THOUGH NOT ENTIRELY AGREEABLE COMPROMISE IN THE SONG VE VALLEY. BY WITHDRAWING ITS FORCES FROM EAST OF THE SONG VE, THE GVN HAS APPARENTLY RETREATED FROM EARLIER PLANS TO OCCUPY THE WHOLE OF THE VALLEY AND PERMANENTLY LOCK COMMUNIST COMMUNICATIONS ROUTES INTO THE LOWLANDS. FOR ITS PART, THE PRG APPEARS TO HAVE ACQUIESCED IN THE GVN'S RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ROAD COMMUNICATIONS TO MINH LONG. WHETHER THIS SOLUTION WILL LAST IS STILL UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER, AND CURRENT GVN PLANS TO REPOPULATE THE

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SONG VE WOULD SEEM PREMATURE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE REFUGEES' EXPRESSED RELUCTANCE TO RETURN TO THE AREA. END COMMENT.

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY:

I CORPS TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER (TOC) LOG REPORTS THAT AT 1210 HOURS JULY 15, THE THIRD MARINE BATTALION OBSERVED AN ENEMY MET (TYPE UNKNOWN) FLY FROM DONG HA TO QUANG TRI, THEN TURN AND FLY TO THE NORTHEAST AND DISAPPEAR. THE SIGHTING HAS NOT BEEN

CONFIRMED.
BROWN
UNQUOTE.
APPLI G

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON12803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS APPLING
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730731/aaaaawsn.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR 1 THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL DANANG DATED 16 JULY
TAGS: PINT, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005